



## United States Mission to the OSCE

---

# Statement on Anti-Semitism

Delivered by Abraham H. Foxman, National Director,  
Anti-Defamation League

June 19, 2003

Civil society – all those institutions that make for a strong vibrant democracy – has been a hallmark of American democracy going back to the nineteenth century. Tocqueville talked about this extensively in his classic work. The health of America's civil society is at the core of our efforts to combat anti-Semitism. It has long been our belief that the best way to make progress on this and other matters of prejudice is to engage as many institutions as possible governmental and non-governmental – in this effort.

On the government level we:

- 1) Press the administration and congress to speak out;
- 2) Get governors, state legislators and local officials to stand up;
- 3) Passage of hate crimes legislation in 45 states;
- 4) Tracking by Justice Department of hate crime statistics across the country;
- 5) Supreme Court enforces nondiscrimination;
- 6) Work with law enforcement nationally and locally to track extremists and bigots while protecting civil liberties.

On a non-governmental level:

- 1) Work to educate against prejudice in the schools beginning with pre-school;
- 2) Speak out every time a public figure makes anti-Semitic comments so that such statements are widely rejected by the public;
- 3) Educate the media on what anti-Semitism is, how stereotypes hurt and how anti-Zionism frequently is anti-Semitism;
- 4) Work with coalition partners: we speak out when other groups are attacked because it is the right thing to do and also because we can look to them to work with us against anti-Semitism;
- 5) Credibility of ADL so institutions in society, whether media, government or academic know what we say is accurate and we don't scream unless a real issue;
- 6) Work with religious leaders - help them properly teach about Judaism in churches and seminaries; encourage and applaud the progress that has been made in Christian attitudes toward Jews.

ADL's 10-point action agenda against global anti-Semitism for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE):

- 1) National and local authorities must call attacks on Jews and Jewish institutions what they are - anti-Semitism.

- 2) Political and civic leaders should utilize opportunities they have every day to speak out against bigotry.
- 3) OSCE and member nations must reaffirm anti-Semitism as a form of racism and xenophobia.
- 4) All nations should follow the lead of Germany and the United States and pass resolutions against anti-Semitism and develop national action plans to combat it.
- 5) OSCE should convene a supplementary Human Dimension Implementation meeting to address anti-Semitism.
- 6) Nations must craft approaches to ensure that regional constitutional, administrative, and legal instruments are fully utilized to combat cases of anti-Semitism.
- 7) Use schools as a staging ground for anti-bias education.
- 8) Implement holocaust education curricula to draw upon the lessons of this tragic period to illuminate the importance of moral decision.
- 9) Train law enforcement in hate crimes response and develop cross cultural skills and communication among officers.
- 10) Respond to racism and hate crimes in the Armed Forces by providing Anti-bias and Prejudice Awareness training.